

COUNTY OF ERIE,
NEW YORK

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Free program could help save accident victims' lives.
- Budget response card - share your comments.
- Outstanding individuals honored.

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News from Legislator

Lynne Dixon



WINTER 2011-2012

New Legislature Districts take effect Jan. 1

More than 80 percent of residents support smaller County government, voting to downsize the Legislature from 15 to 11 members. The reduction coincided with the census, and as a result, the district lines were redrawn to reflect population shifts and larger districts. The new districts take effect Jan. 1, 2012.

Legislator Dixon represented the former 12th District which included, the villages of Angola, Farnham, Hamburg and North Collins, and the towns of Boston, Brant, Eden, Evans, Hamburg (southern portion) and North Collins.

With the exception of Hamburg, every town and village from District 12 has been redistricted into the new 11th District and will be represented by Legislator John J. Mills.

The Town and Village of Hamburg join the City of Lackawanna, Village of Blasdell and a portion of South Buffalo in the newly formed 9th District, which Legislator Dixon looks forward to representing during her 2012-2013 term, having earned the voters support this past election.

"Representing a new district is bittersweet. I will miss working directly with the many



The new Legislature map will be implemented on Jan. 1, 2012. District 9 includes Hamburg, Lackawanna and a portion of South Buffalo. and District 11 is made up of Orchard Park, Boston, Eden, Evans, Brant, North Collins, Collins, Concord and Sardinia.

Maps available at www.erieboe.com

District 9

9

South Buffalo

Lackawanna

Hamburg

District 11

Orchard Park

Evans

Eden

Boston

Brant

North Collins

Concord

Sardinia

Collins

community leaders and residents from District 12 that I formed relationships with but also look forward to the opportunity to represent a new territory," Legislator Dixon said.

The Legislature had 15 members for the past several decades before Legislator Dixon and her

colleagues approved a resolution allowing the residents to decide on the size of government. A referendum was approved in November 2010. Legislator Dixon added that the new, smaller Legislature will improve accountability and transparency in County government.

Yellow Dot Program Approved



Legislator Dixon discusses a new program to help seniors during a press conference.

Legislator Dixon announced that the Yellow Dot and Vial of Life programs will be available to Erie County residents who choose to participate. The Legislature unanimously approved the implementation of these assistance programs during its Nov. 3, 2011 session. Legislator Dixon was a cosponsor of the resolution, bringing forth the idea at the suggestion of a Hamburg constituent.

"These are programs that a resident suggested I consider, and after researching them I decided they would be a great benefit to our region,

especially because of our aging population," Legislator Dixon said. "Both programs will be voluntary, extremely cost efficient and very beneficial at the scene of an emergency."

The Yellow Dot program helps drivers involved in auto accidents by making healthcare information more easily accessible to emergency responders. A yellow sticker on the rear windshield of a car signifies that a folder in the glove compartment contains the driver's photo, medications, allergies, contacts and other information. Similarly, Vial of Life program

is designed to protect individuals in need of medical assistance at their homes. Vial of Life participants place a decal on their front doors, alerting emergency responders of a packet of medical information on the home's refrigerator door.

The Department of Senior Services, which will educate the public about these free programs, and create the decals and distribute them to those who wish to participate. For additional information about the Yellow Dot or Vial of Life programs, please Senior Services at **858-8081**.

Eden Evans Center Road repairs



Legislator Dixon is pleased to announce Eden Evans Center Road received much-needed repair this past summer.

To date, 2.88

miles, costing \$3.8 million, have been repaired. Road work began in August and ended this past fall.

"I took the residents' concerns about Eden Evans Center Road to the DPW and the County Executive and was able to work with them on a plan to ensure repairs were done before this winter when the roadway is at its worst," Legislator Dixon. "The road

had become a safety issue and this year we won't have to deal with large potholes that limited the plows ability to adequately clear the roadway. Work should be completed in 2012."

Eden Evans Center Road was last reconstructed approximately 40 years ago.



A ribbon cutting ceremony marked the reopening of Eden Evans Center Road.



A press conference was held in August to announce work would begin on Eden Evans Center Road.

HEAP Outreach Jan. 17 in Hamburg

Legislator Dixon has scheduled a HEAP Outreach at Hamburg Town Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Interviews will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HEAP is a federally funded program to assist Erie County

residents with their heating bills. The HEAP outreach will be administered by the Erie County Departments of Social Services and Senior Services and is open to all income eligible households.

Call 858-7644 for information.

Residents involved in budget process



Legislator Dixon held Roundtable Discussions on the proposed 2012 Erie County Budget in November to collect resident comments.

"Thank you to everyone who attended and took time to get involved in the process. Your comments and suggestions were very helpful as I prepared to cast my vote concerning the budget,"

Legislator Dixon discusses the budget during a meeting in Hamburg.

Legislator Dixon said. The \$1 billion budget was adopted on Dec. 6 and does not include a tax rate increase.

"Adopting a balanced budget is the single most important thing we do as Legislators. If we aren't in good financial standing then providing quality services is put at risk," Legislator Dixon said.

Budget decisions aren't made just one time a year. Legislator Dixon encouraged residents to remain involved and to contact her at any time to discuss how their tax

dollars are being used.

Comments can also be submitted in writing. Please print a copy of the comment form (below) and mail to the address listed.

"We are dealing with taxpayers' money so we must work directly with taxpayers," Legislator Dixon said. "Decisions concerning how county funds are spent occur throughout the year so your feedback is still a vital part of the process. Comments are always appreciated and considered."

For information about the 2012 budget, please visit www.erie.gov and view a copy of the budget and amendments.



County Budget Feedback Legislator Lynne Dixon

I'd appreciate any feedback you have on the County's Budget hearings and negotiations. What do you believe to be the priorities of County Government spending? Where should the County spend more, where should it spend less? I'd appreciate any feedback you provide and will take any and all comments into consideration. Thank you.

-Legislator Lynne Dixon

Name:

Address:

What do you believe should be our budget priorities?

Additional Comments

Please mail this form to the Erie County Legislature, Legislator Lynne Dixon, 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202





Contact Legislator Lynne Dixon

Old County Hall
92 Franklin Street

Fourth Floor

Buffalo, NY 14202

Phone: 716-858-8671

Email: lynne.dixon@erie.gov

Website: www.erie.gov/legislature



Erie County's vision: Erie County will be a world-class community where People want to live, Businesses want to locate and Tourists want to visit.

Happy Holidays! I hope you are all enjoying a happy and safe holiday season and looking forward to a great new year.

I am personally excited for 2012 and beginning my second term as a County Legislator as the representative of the new 9th District.

Thank you everyone who has supported me and I ask for your continued support as we continue to make Erie County the best it can be. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Proclamations Presented at Sessions

Members of the community are honored during each Legislative session. The following individuals or groups were recently honored by Legislator Dixon:

General Pulaski Association for its commitment to keeping tradition alive.

Lorraine Golden for saving the lives of three Lake Shore School children on the first day of the school year.

The Town of Eden on its forthcoming Bicentennial Celebration, 1912-2012.



Legislator Dixon presented a proclamation to **Dr. Shicha Kumar, MD, Assistant Professor** in the Department of Surgical Oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, recognizing Oct. 20 as **Breast Cancer Awareness Day** in Erie County.



Chris Kreiger was honored during the Dec. 1 session by Legislator Dixon for his service to his country and founding **WNY Heroes**.